

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS, JULY 1935

(Compiled by Mary O. Souder; authorities, U. S. Weather Bureau officials)

[The table herewith contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list of tornadoes will appear in the Annual Report of the Chief of Bureau]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Wisconsin, western and north-western counties.	1-2					Heavy rain	Number of washouts of railroad tracks and highways.
Johnston (near), S. C.	2	P. m.			\$1,200	Electrical.	Tenant house, garage, and automobile destroyed.
Des Moines, Iowa, and vicinity.	2					Torrential rains	Over 50 square blocks of Valley Junction, suburb of Des Moines, flooded by Walnut Creek; Jordan Creek caused thousands of dollars' damage as it spread through the grounds of the Penn-Dixie Cement Co.; in some places railroad and street car tracks were washed out; highest flood that ever occurred in this section.
Grand Rapids, Mich.	3					Excessive rain	1.49 inches fell in 1 hour; streets, roads, and basements flooded; water in places curb deep in streets; section of railroad track washed out; crops and gardens ruined; loss of several thousand dollars.
Polk and Norman Counties, Minn.	3	12:30-1 p. m.		3	100,000	Tornado	Storm apparently originated in Dunn County, N. Dak.; 8 persons injured; 33 barns, many outbuildings, silos, and windmills demolished or badly damaged; windows broken, trees uprooted; poles down; loss to crops; path 45 miles long.
Indianapolis, Ind.	4	2:42-7:16 a. m., 2:43-8:12 p. m.				2 thunderstorms and excessive rain.	Lightning damaged power lines and caused several fires; many basements flooded; second storm in p. m. was accompanied by heavy rains and squalls which again flooded streets and cellars; some damage by blowing down signs and branches of trees.
Key West, Fla.	4	7-8:25 p. m.				Electrical.	Transformer struck by lightning; business sections in darkness for an hour; considerable telephone trouble.
Butler, Okla. (10 miles west)	4	10:30 p. m.	14		10,000	Wind	Farm buildings and machinery wrecked to extent of \$8,000; crop loss, \$2,000.
Hunter's Station, Wyo.	4		16			Heavy hail	Path of storm 12 miles long; no details.
Knoxville, Tenn.	4				4,500	Thunderstorm	Trees and power lines leveled.
Red Wing, Minn.	5	4 a. m.		0	900	Small tornado	Trees uprooted; fruit knocked off; buildings damaged; few wires down.
Chicago, Ill.	5	11:40 a. m.- 1:25 p. m.				Thunder squall and heavy rain.	Wind of 51 miles per hour recorded; damage to trees and power lines; number of small craft capsized in Lake Michigan.
Canutillo, Tex.-La Union, N. Mex.	5	2:30 p. m.	11		45,000	Hail	Crops in area 1 by 4 miles, total loss.
Cambria and Christianburg, Va.	5	5:30-7:30 p. m.	880		1,600	Cyclonic winds, electrical.	Large building unroofed and debris carried 400 feet; roof of church carried some distance; feed water-damaged; small crop loss; all members of one family stunned by lightning.
Fairechild, Wis.	5	5:45 p. m.	33-167	0	12,000	Tornado	2 barns, a house, and filling station completely destroyed; much damage to power station; small damage to other buildings; path 3 miles long.
La Crosse County, Wis.	5	6:30 p. m.			6,000	Squall	Number of farm buildings wrecked.
Edgar, Marathon, and Wausau, Wis., and vicinity.	5	7:15-7:30 p. m.	100-167	0	125,000	Tornado	Started 10 miles west of Edgar, traveled eastward 4 miles wrecking 6 barns and a schoolhouse; storm lifted and skipped about 12 miles, reaching Marathon about 7:30, continued eastward through a portion of Wausau with damage amounting to \$30,000 in Wausau alone; path 25 miles long.
Opelika, Ala., 3 miles south	5					Heavy rain	A trestle and 30 to 40 feet of track of the Western Railway of Alabama washed out.
Scranton, Pa.	6	P. m.				Thundersquall	Rainfall 1.68 inches; many streets flooded interrupting trolley service; 50 trees blown down; number of places struck by lightning.
Danbury, Conn.-Rhode Island.	6					Thunderstorm	Storm severe; Waterbury had 10 fires; poles down and trees destroyed; in Waterbury and Danbury over main thoroughfare to New York, water stood 2 feet deep; Veteran's Hospital at Newington struck by lightning; storm general north of New Haven.
Ithaca, N. Y.	6-8			11	4,000,000	Heavy rain	4 railroads running into Ithaca had tracks washed out; main automobile roads severely damaged; bridges and culverts were out in all directions; property damaged; crop loss; 11 persons drowned. Damage to roads, bridges, and fences, \$10,000; loss to crops, \$20,000. Loss estimated for Electric Power Co. only; small loss to crops.
Todd County, S. Dak.	7	5-7 p. m.	16		30,000	Wind and rain	
Glen Lyn, Va.	7	7:15-10 p. m.	115		125,000	Wind, electrical, and rain.	
Rochester, N. Y.	7	P. m.			500,000	Thunderstorm	Storm one of the most severe ever recorded in this section, both electrically and as to the amount of rainfall in a short period, 1.98 inches falling in 30 minutes; damage chiefly due to backing up of sewers and flooding cellars.
Oswego County, N. Y., southern portion.	7				25,000	Electrical, excessive rain.	2 barns burned with \$25,000 loss; much damage from heavy rain in vicinity of Fulton; lightning caused 3 fires; cellars flooded and drives washed out; 5 miles south of Phoenix, 100 feet of N. Y. C. R. R. washed out.
New York State, south-central portion.	7-8			40	25,000,000	Torrential rain and flood.	Heaviest rainfall occurred over an area extending from Keuka Lake to central Chenango County, where 9 to over 10 inches fell during the 2-day period. The unprecedented rainfall brought many of the streams to flood peaks so sudden and high that people, caught practically unaware, were trapped in houses, automobiles, and cottages on the shores of the Finger Lakes; on July 8, creeks, usually insignificant in summer, discharged water many feet deep through the centers of Urbana, Hammondsport, Watkins Glen, Montour Falls, Myers, Trumansburg, Marathon, Lisle, Willett, and other towns; trees, buildings and other debris jammed bridges and culverts; streams were diverted; roads washed out; houses demolished; fields deeply gullied or buried under gravel; railroads washed out and bridges carried away; great damage through inundation; thousands of acres of highly productive muck and bottom lands submerged; residential and business sections in Hornell, Binghamton, Ithaca, Bath, and many other towns flooded; loss to State highways approximately \$3,000,000, of which amount \$1,750,000 was damage to bridges; damage to roads greater; 540 bridges of a span greater than 5 feet to be replaced; loss to railroads, exclusive of business, in excess of \$1,250,000; heavy damage to public utilities, Watkins Glen, Enfield, and Taughannock Falls; property damage in millions.
Bloom, Kans., vicinity of	8			0	150	Tornado	Damage to outbuildings.
Valley County, Mont.	8			2		Wind.	Many persons injured.
Charleston, S. C.	8					Heavy rain squall.	This very heavy rain squall broke all July records for heavy precipitation for 30 minutes in this section.
Elkins, W. Va.	8					Heavy rain	3.7 inches of rain fell in 2½ hours; sewer system inadequate; in many places water 2 to 3 inches deep, breaking all records for heavy rainfall in short periods.
Norfolk, Va.	9	P. m.			15,000	Thunderstorm	Man received a severe burn on the hand resulting from lightning striking a knife he held; traffic delayed; electric service disrupted in many sections of the city; Smith-Douglas fertilizer plant damaged to the extent of \$15,000.
Clinton (near), Minn.	10	1 p. m.				Hail	Considerable damage to crops.

1 Miles instead of yards.

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS, JULY 1935—Continued

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Hubbard and Cass Counties, Minn.	10	do			5,000	Wind and rain	Basements flooded; highways damaged; trees blown down; loss to growing crops; wind damage \$500, from heavy rain \$4,500.
Pittston - Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and vicinity.	10					Flood	Some 40 families forced from their homes in the southern portion; crops destroyed in lowlands along the Susquehanna River; Kirby Park at Wilkes-Barre flooded.
Gary, Minn.	11	8 a. m.		0	800	Tornado	Several garages, small buildings, and lumber sheds demolished; trees uprooted.
Trondhyem, Minn.	11	Noon			5,000	Tornado and heavy rain	Barns, silos, windmills, and small buildings wrecked or damaged considerably; haystacks blown away; loss to crops; poultry killed; path 4 miles long.
Phlox, Wis.	11	5:30 p. m.	880	0	15,000	Tornado and heavy hail	Several barns and smaller buildings damaged; boy suffered a broken leg.
Newberry (near), S. C.	11				500	Electrical	Storehouse containing wheat destroyed.
Granada, Colo., vicinity of.	11-12			9	110,775	Flood	Owing to heavy local downpours in the vicinity of Granada and Wolf Creeks, flood waters resulted, 9 persons being drowned; considerable property damaged; 10 to 12 inches of rain fell.
Jasper, Ark.	12	2:15 p. m.	100	0	75,000	Tornado	3 persons injured; property damaged.
Clinton, Okla.	12	4:30 p. m.	11		500	Hail and hail	Hail damage slight; damage from wind \$500; path 5 miles long.
Cross Plains, Tex.	12	5 p. m.	880	0		Tornado	Buildings damaged; plate glass windows broken; trees uprooted.
Gordon, Nebr.	12	7 p. m.	12		10,000	Wind and hail	Property destroyed.
Dallas, Tex.	12	7:28-11:35 p. m.			37,000	Thundersquall	Property damaged.
Missouri (central portion of State), west to east.	12					Wind, heavy rain, electrical.	Damage reported at Lexington, Concordia, Sedalia, Columbia, Jefferson City, Montgomery City, New Haven, St. Charles and St. Louis; damage at Jefferson City, \$25,000; at Montgomery City, \$10,000, and at St. Louis, \$2,000.
Dryden-Cortland, N. Y.	12			0		Small tornado	Silo and 3 barns wrecked; apple and shade trees uprooted; telephone lines disrupted.
Columbia (near), S. C.	13	4 p. m.			1,000	Electrical	Lightning struck a mule shed killing 2 mules; building nearby containing harness and feed ignited and burned.
Tanners Lake, Minn., vicinity of.	14	2:30 p. m.			1,000	Wind	60-foot power pole blown down; branches of trees broken off; grain lodged.
Oelwein, Iowa, vicinity of.	14	p. m.	11			Tornadoic wind, rain, and hail	Several farm buildings completely destroyed; considerable crop loss.
Boscobel (near), Wis.	14		12		15,000	Heavy hail	Small grains, corn, orchards, and gardens severely damaged.
Bouse (near), Ariz.	16					Wind	1 person injured; 4 houses damaged.
Oswego County, N. Y.	16					Hail, wind, and rain	Near Kasoag a barn was blown from its foundation; in the vicinity of Pulaski a car was blown from the road; at New Haven thousands of dollars' damage to buildings and loss to crops; damage from hail in South New Haven and Volney; many trees blown down.
Napoleon, Ohio.	16					Hail and wind	Storm severe, causing much loss to all crops.
Murdock, Minn.	17	6:15 p. m.				Wind and rain	Considerable damage to small grains.
Hayre, Mont., and vicinity	17	P. m.				Hail and wind	20,000 to 30,000 acres of crops lost; property damaged; poultry killed.
Philadelphia, N. Y.	19	3:30 p. m.	167	2	10,000	Small tornado	Storm first noted by members of the Leslie Drake farmstead, who were apprised of its approach by a terrible whistling noise and a funnel cloud. Before they could recover from their astonishment, the storm had "sideswiped" their buildings and passed on; a loaded hay wagon was overturned, the hay whisked away; part of the metal roof of the barn was torn loose; the funnel cloud passed on to the Earl Drake farm about 500 yards away and on the opposite side of the highway; 5 telephone poles were snapped off; granary and stock barn and farmhouse completely demolished; Mrs. Drake who was ill, 2 daughters and a child of 7, were in Mrs. Drake's room; Mrs. Drake, whose skull was fractured, died; her daughter, 19, sustained a broken back and other injuries, dying 2 days later; other daughter suffered from bruises and shock and the child had a broken rib and numerous bruises; path of storm 5 miles long.
Providence, R. I., and vicinity.	19	3:40-8:50 p. m.				Thunderstorm and hail	About 20 buildings in the State struck by lightning and 3 men on the municipal golf course stunned.
Scranton, Pa., vicinity of.	19	6:10-8 p. m.				Thundersquall	4 houses struck by lightning.
New Haven, Conn.	19	6:20 p. m.				Electrical	No section of this State spared from the result of this storm; 2 men at Wallingford, 12 homes, and 3 churches struck by lightning, 6 fires resulting; light and telephone service disrupted.
Whitestown, Ind.	19					Heavy hail	Damage to crops.
New York State.	19			8		Thunderstorm	8 persons killed by lightning; much property damage; house, sawmill, and many barns burned after being struck by lightning; trees uprooted; telephone and power lines damaged.
Toledo, Ohio, and vicinity.	19					Local squalls	Damage to trees and wires; amount not estimated.
Hayre, Mont., and vicinity.	20	1:30 p. m.	15			Hail, wind, and rain	Gardens destroyed; grain in fields completely wiped out; property damaged.
Clear Spring, Md.	20	3:45 p. m.		2	10,000	Ball lightning, rain	Terrific hot, depressing atmosphere, 99° temperature; 3 storms met; lightning in balls went running around the house, then a very large ball burst in the middle and a large flash of lightning struck a brick packing house instantly killing 2 men and shocking 10 others; 2:12 inches of rainfall recorded in 25 minutes.
Spink, Walworth, Edmunds and Potter Counties, S. Dak.	20	5-5:30 p. m.			88,480	Wind and hail	Farm buildings wrecked; loss to crops; most of damage in Walworth County.
Goshen, Ind.	20					Heavy hail	Damage to crops.
Des Moines, Iowa.	21					Thundersquall and hail	High wind blew down trees, tied up traffic, and damaged property; 2 persons injured when a tree fell through their automobile.
Elkader (near), Iowa.	21		880		1,000	Wind and hail	Much damage to crops by hail; small grain blown down.
Artesia, N. Mex.	21					Wind	No details given.
Interlaken, N. Y.	21					Heavy rain	Cellars and stores flooded; railroad fill damaged.
Spink, Clark, and Codington Counties, S. Dak.	22	P. m.				Wind and hail	Several buildings damaged; loss to crops moderate.
Hamden and North Haven, Conn.	22				2,000	Electrical	Several buildings in North Haven struck by lightning; \$2,000 estimated damage to barn by lightning.
Des Moines, Iowa.	23	6 a. m.		0	4,000	Small tornado	Storm centered on Glen Acres Flying Field; hangar demolished; 5 airplanes damaged.
Hollis, Okla., 8 miles north.	23	7 p. m.	11		11,000	Heavy hail	\$10,000 crop loss; \$1,000 other damage; path 4 miles long.
Liberal, Kans., vicinity of.	23	p. m.				Tornado	No damage reported.
Cheyenne, Wyo.	23	do		0		Rain and hail	Storm sewers inadequate; large portion of downtown section under water, at one point to the depth of 3 feet.
Pymosa, Franklin and Benton, Iowa.	23				10,000	Heavy hail	Stones as large as hen eggs; property damaged.
Richland, Iowa.	23				1,800	Wind	Loss to crops.
Miller, S. Dak., vicinity of.	24	9 p. m.	15-10			Hail	Do.
Walsenburg (near), Colo.	24					Heavy rain	Flooding; railroad bridge and about 850 feet of track washed out; damage to highways.
Grand Rapids, Mich.	24					do	Streets and basements flooded.
Milwaukee, Wis.	24			1		do	1.65 inches of rain in 30 minutes recorded; sewers overtaxed, streets and basements flooded; lawns damaged; boy drowned in creek.
Idaho County, Idaho, north-western portion.	24-25		13			Wind, heavy rain	Damage to orchards by wind; silo demolished; heavy precipitation resulted in local floods in lower canyon; fences washed out; hay and bound grain carried away; path 10 miles long.

1 Miles instead of yards.

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS, JULY 1935—Continued

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Adams County, Idaho, northern portion.	25	5 p. m.	-----	-----	-----	Wind	Shacks demolished; trees uprooted.
Walworth, Edmunds and Hamlin Counties, S. Dak.	25	6-12 p. m.	-----	-----	-----	Wind, rain, and hail	Buildings damaged; standing grain lodged; damage spotted.
Fairfield, Milford, and Connecticut River Valley, Conn.	25	-----	-----	4	-----	Thunderstorm, excessive rain.	Fourth successive day of rain; considerable damage by lightning; 4 persons in separated sections of State drowned.
Aurora, Ill.	25	-----	-----	-----	1,000	Electrical	House struck by lightning and burned.
Jefferson, Iowa, vicinity of.	25	-----	-----	-----	-----	Heavy hail.	Large hailstones; much crop loss.
Mitchell County, Iowa.	25	-----	-----	-----	-----	Hail	Corn stripped; windows broken.
Leech Lake and Fisher, Minn., and vicinity.	26	P. m.	-----	-----	-----	do.	Light to heavy hail along the south shore of Leech Lake caused considerable damage to roofs of buildings and to corn; in Fisher about 40 percent of wheat crop damaged; path 25 miles long.
Lambert, Mont., vicinity of.	26	-----	-----	-----	10,000	Wind and hail	Roof of high school picked up and carried some distance where it landed on a Catholic Church badly damaging it; a public building under construction leveled and 2 garages picked up and scattered about, but cars in them unscratched; farms adjoining town heavily damaged; damage to power plant which was out of order for several hours.
Crosby, Minn., and vicinity.	27	1:45 a. m.	880	-----	3,000	Wind	Many windows broken; trees uprooted; Chimneys and poles down; slight damage to crops; path 1 mile long.
Salado, Tex.	27	2 p. m.	500	0	500	Tornado	Buildings damaged.
Utica, Minn., and vicinity.	27	5:15 p. m.	-----	-----	350,000	Tornadoic winds and excessive rain.	Several persons injured; many barns and small outbuildings demolished; houses unrooted and windows broken; trees uprooted; poles down; much poultry and livestock killed or injured; loss to crops; railroad tracks washed out; path 20 miles long.
Strong City, Okla.	27	11 p. m.	13	-----	50,000	Severe hail	Some cattle killed; roofs of many houses badly damaged; crop loss; tons of large hailstones, some as large as hen eggs, washed into canyons and gullies where they were protected from the sun's rays and preserved for several weeks; path 5 miles long.
Plainview, Minn., and vicinity.	27	P. m.	-----	-----	-----	Hail	Light to heavy hail that accompanied a tornado that centered in Utica, caused considerable damage to property and crops.
Globe, Ariz.	27	-----	-----	-----	-----	Heavy rain	Town hit by rush of water that washed debris and boulders into city streets and delayed transportation on the Miami highway.
Salt River Valley, Ariz.	27	-----	-----	-----	-----	Wind, electrical	Many trees broken down; 50 telephone poles broken off; in Buckeye, roof of building torn off and a barn demolished; hail leveled approximately 500 acres of cotton and damaged many acres of freshly-cut alfalfa seed; in Phoenix, 2 houses were struck by lightning and burned.
Hillsboro, Ohio.	28	-----	-----	-----	10,000	Severe hail and wind	Property damaged.
Lancaster, Ohio.	28	-----	-----	1	1,500,000	Flood	Property damage, \$1,500,000; 1 person drowned.
Buffalo, N. Y.	28	-----	-----	-----	650	Thunderstorm	2 buildings struck by lightning.
Byers, Colo.	29	7:30-7:45 p. m.	-----	0	1,000	Small tornado	Some damage to trees, windmills and buildings.
Bannock and Bear Lake Counties, Idaho.	31	2 p. m.	880	-----	10,000	Hail	Crop loss; path 8 miles long.
Jeddito, Ariz.	31	-----	-----	-----	-----	Torrential rains	Thatcher-Pima district flooded, rail and highway traffic disrupted; numerous small houses damaged; portions of city water supply pipeline washed out; loss to crops.
Jefferson and Oldham Counties, Ky.	31	-----	-----	-----	5,000	Wind	Damage to buildings, timber and wire systems; loss to crops.
Parkersburg, W. Va.	31-Aug. 1	p. m.	-----	-----	-----	Severe thunderstorm.	Street cars out of commission at 11 p. m. until noon next day; wires down; streets flooded with from 6 to 18 inches of water; fills under street car and railway tracks washed out; 3,000 telephones out of order; motors stranded and many persons unable to return to their homes.

1 Miles instead of yards.

